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***ARIZONA ACCELERATES SOLAR ELECTRICITY ACCESS FOR TRIBES***  
***Initiative to Provide Renewable Resource***

PHOENIX – Promoting access to electricity for Arizona’s Native American households is the focus of an energy policy initiative being launched by Governor Janet Napolitano. The Tribal Rural Electrification Program (TREP), created in the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office, is intended to demonstrate renewable energy technologies for communities that are not connected to the state’s power grid.

“More than 10,000 Native American households in Arizona have no access to electricity,” said Governor Napolitano. “TREP will demonstrate how solar energy can help bridge that gap.”

Several Tribes in Arizona lack the necessary distribution systems to provide grid-connected power to many of their households. TREP will demonstrate the reliability, cost-effectiveness and market potential of solar electricity. It will also help improve the health and safety on tribal lands and provide lights by which students can learn. As part of the program’s first phase, 60 solar panels will be provided to 10 homes without electricity on the Navajo Reservation.

Solar expertise from industry, government, utilities and universities has collaborated on the program with Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus’ Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory making a donation of solar panels.

Nationwide, more than 14 percent of households located on tribal lands have no access to electricity; more than half of those are located in Arizona.

The goal of the TREP program is to bring electricity to more than 100 households by next year.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit [www.azgovernor.gov](http://www.azgovernor.gov).